



Enoch Eldredge Gurr was born at Sussex, Northin, England, November 27, 1813, a son of James and Sarah Eldredge Gurr. He married a young widow, Sarah Higgins, who had a child named Mary. Enoch and Sarah had a girl, Jane, and a son, William. Sarah and the girl died. Later Enoch married Ruth Buchman, a nurse.

Early in the 19th century, Enoch, one of ten children of the humble family of James and Sarah were trying to eke out a living probably as farm tenants and also were a very devout family in their worship.

Enoch grew to be a tall, well built man of six feet with broad shoulders. He had grey blue eyes. He drove the coach with the white horses for Queen Victoria.

At the time of his marriage, there was much excitement over the discovery of gold in Australia. Many young people were saving all they could to raise enough money for transportation to Australia. Enoch became interested along with his friend, John Buchman for both had the spirit of adventure. When they had enough saved they and the

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Buchman family, including John and his sister, Ruth, left for Australia. This was in 1838, when Enoch was 25. They looked forward with high spirits to the adventure but with heavy hearts at leaving behind their parents and brothers, sisters and friends, not knowing if they would ever see them again.

Traveling on sailboats took months so every one aboard got acquainted and the Gurr and Buchman families spent many happy hours together and friendships grew closer.

One day the tragic news spread that the dreaded disease, smallpox, had broken out among some passengers. One can imagine the panic that broke out among the passengers. Ruth Buchman, who had studied practical nursing for eight years did all she could to help among those stricken.

Enoch was especially grateful to her for assistance, when his wife and baby daughter were stricken. Everything was done for them that was possible but both died. Also John Buchman's wife died. It was a sad and heartbreaking task for them to see their loved ones lowered over the side of the vessel to be buried at sea.

They finally landed at Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, and started life anew. They never found gold but did find a land of opportunities. Enoch married Ruth Buchman about 1839 and they became the parents of James, Susanah, Peter, Sarah, and Ruben Gurr.

When Ruben was born, William, Enoch's oldest boy was 14 years old and was much help to his father on freighting trips.

Enoch was a very devout Christian and raised his family that way. One passage of scripture impressed him very much — "And I saw another Angel fly in the midst of Heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people." (Rev. 16:6.)

Two LDS missionaries came one day with their message and Enoch and his family were soon converted and were baptized, December 23, 1853, by John Eldredge and confirmed by Elder Graham. They told their good news to their friends, minister and Ruth's brothers. They were disappointed when so many, including their minister, turned against them. Other missionaries who were made welcome at their home were Andrew Jackson Stewart

of Benjamin, Utah, and William Madison Wall of Provo and Elder Fleming.

Because of the news of Johnston's Army coming to Utah and the Indian troubles, Brigham Young called all the Elders home. Brigham made arrangements on an old sailing vessel for the Elders and a group of Saints from all over Australia and surrounding islands to come to America. Enoch's son William and his wife, Sarah E. Barker, converts, came too.

Enoch secured a job as cook on the vessel. When but a few miles out the sea became calm—no wind to stir the sails for six weeks. The Saints on board met and prayed for the calm to cease and for the wind to blow to help them continue their journey. Soon after the wind began to blow and they sailed peacefully for a few days, then a terrible storm overtook them. It was so bad the Captain said he could not save the ship. William Wall, a missionary called the Saints together and prayed for the storm to cease. Their prayers were answered. They sailed on in peace. The captain said the Mormons beat the devil — the ship would have sunk if the Mormons hadn't been there. Food and water were scarce and everyone was put on rations. The main food was coarse sea biscuits, which Enoch could not eat because of stomach trouble. So the kindly ship's captain gave him white bread.

After three long month's on the ocean, they arrived in San Pedro, California. They were there for some time buying supplies and getting ready for the trip to Utah. They came in the Ezra Curtis company and suffered many hardships while crossing the Nevada desert. They arrived at Parowan, Utah where William and his wife decided to stay, while Enoch, Ruth and the other children came on to Provo, arriving there in 1857 in the Ezra Curtis company.

They lived in Provo and Enoch helped to build the road through Provo Canyon. After the road was finished to what was later Charleston he had one of the best farms there. Their youngest child, Ruben, became very ill there so the doctor advised them to go to a lower climate if they wanted him to live. They moved to Benjamin Ward near Payson, and built a log house and were one of the first families to plant trees.

He freighted between the Douglas store in Payson and Salt Lake City. The log house in Benjamin was later replaced with a larger, well constructed adobe house.

Enoch Gurr was one of the first men to perfect adobes.

Enoch's two daughters, Sarah and Susanah, married William Wall and lived in Wallsburg, a little town to the east of the head of Provo Canyon. William Wall died in September 1869, at Provo leaving Susanah with three small children and Sarah with two and expecting another. Susanah had rheumatism so bad she thought a change of climate might help her so in 1870 they moved to their father's home. Enoch was now 59 years and Ruth 60. They were glad to have their daughters come to live with them.

In 1872, Enoch with his son Peter started for Grass Valley intending to raise cattle but at Gunnison heard the Indians were very hostile in Grass Valley so they stayed in Gunnison until the Indian trouble subsided. Then they went to a settlement called Prattsville, on the Sevier River where the United Order was being started. They stayed for about a year but left when the Order broke up.

They rented land at Chicken Creek where they farmed two years but finally went back to Benjamin so the children could go to school. After Peter died Enoch could not care for this farm so his son James took them back to a farm at Sigard on the Sevier River. Enoch cleaned out his old salt springs and made salt again to help make a living. Before he passed away his granddaughter Ruth and husband, William Stewart, had them come back to Benjamin to live.

Enoch was called and ordained a High Priest by President John Young, September 3, 1861, and called by President John Murdock of Heber City to preside over the High Priests in Wallsburg, Wasatch County in 1861. He was called by President Fairbanks of Payson, Utah, to join the School of Prophets in 1870 while he lived in Benjamin.

His family all idolized him—he was so kind and he was an extra special tithe payer. He died March 12, 1887.

Children: Ruben, Elgadia Emline Miles, William Ruben, Enoch Elijah, Hannah Elizabeth, John Miles, Lucy Perlina, Sarah Bernetta and Adelbert Gurr.

PATRIARCH THOMAS HICKEN AND WIVES



Patriarch Thomas Hicken was the only child of Thomas Hicken, of Woodhouse, Leicestershire, England, and his wife, Ann Ward. He was born June 15, 1826, at Burton-on-the-Wolds, Leicestershire, England. His father was a Grenadier soldier in the British army about 20 years; fought in the Battle of Waterloo, and was awarded a silver and also a gold medal for meritorious service. These medals are still in the possession of members of the family in America. He also received a pension for his services in the British army.

When Thomas, Jr., was four, his mother died, and he lived with his father's sister Elizabeth, who was married to Robert Cumberland. They had no children. His opportunities to attend school were scarce, but he learned the stocking weaving trade early.

When about 19, he joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint, being baptized February 15, 1845, by Thomas Effield. About this time, August, 1845, in the Whitwick Church, Leicestershire, England, he married Catherine Fewkes, daughter of Benjamin Fewkes and Culloden Ann Toon. Catherine was a stocking weaver, and though not strong, was an industrious woman and good housekeeper, very kind and affectionate in her disposition. She enjoyed

some of the gifts promised those who accept the gospel. She was a very good seamstress and taught her daughter. Together they made men's suits, dresses, hats and shoes. She died at Heber City on May 18, 1879, after an extended illness. She was mother of seven children.

In 1847, Thomas Hicken was ordained an Elder by Crandall Dunn and sustained as president of the Whitwick Branch of the LDS Church. He presided over this branch until January 1, 1851, when he emigrated to America.

He and his wife and three small children, Elizabeth, Orson, and Addison, crossed the Atlantic on the sailing vessel "Ellen," together with John Crook and Henry Chatwin. Due to an accident the ship put in at North Wales for repair where they remained 18 days. They finally arrived in New Orleans on March 17, 10 weeks after setting sail. By May 2 they had arrived at Council Bluffs. In the spring of 1852, Thomas and another man secured a yoke of oxen, two yoke of cows and a wagon to make the trip across the plains. They came with the Eli B. Kelsey company and made the trip without any serious trouble.

Thomas Hicken resided in Provo seven or eight years, where he built two houses. While here he was active in military affairs, and served in the Black Hawk War. He moved to Heber City in 1860, where he was ordained a High Priest by Elisha Everett, Sr. In 1863 he was called as a special missionary to Summit and Morgan counties to advocate the Word of Wisdom. He was a diligent Church worker and held many offices in ecclesiastical and civil affairs, among them being presiding teacher in Heber City for eight years, and first counselor in Wasatch Stake High Priests' Quorum.

In 1880 he was ordained a patriarch by Daniel H. Wells and John Henry Smith. His personal record noted that he had given 466 blessings.

He was a fluent preacher and an inspiration wherever he went. At various times, in fast meetings, he was given the gift of speaking in tongues. He also had the gift of healing through the power of the priesthood, and many he administered to were healed in this way. At one time a very miraculous healing took place. A dear

neighbor, Christie Giles, was badly afflicted with a very large goiter that covered her entire neck in front. One Sunday morning she was very sick with it and while Patriarch Hicken was out doing his morning chores he was strongly impressed to go to her home. Seeing her condition, he got another elder, Brother Duke, and they went to her home and administered to her and she improved almost immediately. That same day she was prayed for in priesthood meeting and soon after, the goiter was entirely gone. Aunt Christie Giles bore testimony of this healing many times.

All hours of the day or night he was called out to administer to the sick. He took great pains to teach and train his family in the principles of the gospel, was of a gentle and kind disposition, with always a comforting word for those in distress.

As a farmer he raised flax and with the help of his wife prepared it for spinning, and furnished thread for all the community and clothing for his children.

In 1862, as polygamy was being practiced, Thomas Hicken married Mrs. Jane Clotworthy, a widow with four children, and helped her raise her family. Her children had great respect for him and his first wife, and his children respected the Clotworthy family.



He also married Margaret Powell as a plural wife in 1865, and they had five children. She was born in 1847 at Tipton, Staffordshire, England, coming to Utah in 1864 with her parents on the ship "General McClelland." They crossed the plains in Captain Joseph Rollin's train, walking all the way and arriving in Heber City on October 4, 1864. She was an active Church worker of great faith and had a strong testimony of the gospel. She helped with the sick and those in distress, as well as caring for the

dead. For 12 years she was president of the Heber Second Ward Primary, and was an accomplished seamstress, making beautiful wedding dresses, hats and bonnets. She loved flowers and always raised a beautiful flower garden. She died June 18, 1925, in Salt Lake City, and was buried in Heber City Cemetery.

In February, 1915, Thomas Hicken fell, and injured his hip, contracted pneumonia and died March 2, 1915, at the age of 88. His posterity in 1954, as nearly as could be determined, numbered nearly 900 persons.

His children were as follows:

I. By Catherine Fewkes—

1. Elizabeth.
2. Orson.
3. Addison.
4. Thomas.
5. Benjamin.
6. John Henry.
7. David William.

II. By Margaret Powell—

1. Maria Catherine.
2. Sarah Ann.
3. Rachel Emma.
4. Charles Willard.
5. Ruth.

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Mrs. Joseph Jensen of
Talmage, Utah delivered
Mrs. Ralada Titcomb Bond (Wm.)